



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

SOMALIA – Complex Emergency/Drought

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 02

June 19, 2002

Note: the last situation report was dated November 14, 2001.

BACKGROUND

A complex emergency continues in Somalia for the eleventh consecutive year. Since the fall of Siad Barre's dictatorship in 1991, Somalia has lacked a functioning and internationally recognized national government and has suffered from inter-clan warfare. Several regional administrations have been established and a transitional national government was created in September 2000, but in each case the extent of authority has been limited or unstable.

Inter-clan conflict and the lack of a central authority has disrupted markets, damaged or destroyed infrastructure, and prevented the delivery of social services throughout much of Somalia. Security issues have complicated response efforts in southern and central Somalia, with kidnappings, looting, and killings threatening both local and expatriate humanitarian workers. In addition, three consecutive years of below-normal rainfall have produced drought conditions throughout most of the country, with the worst effects in the southern and northeastern areas.

Destitution among urban and pastoral groups, combined with ongoing conflict in nearly all areas, has led to displacement within Somalia and migration to Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) are located in or around urban areas, where insecurity and strained coping mechanisms prevent sustainable recovery.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Drought-affected and Conflict-affected	780,000	U.N. Consolidated Appeal for 2002
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	350,000	U.N. Consolidated Appeal for 2002
Refugees	280,000	UNHCR

FY 2002 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia to date.....\$3,848,623
FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia to date.....\$23,933,497

CURRENT SITUATION

Overview. Insecurity in Gedo and northeastern regions has worsened the humanitarian situation in Somalia, despite a generally improved rainfall situation over the past three months. Intense fighting in northern Gedo region beginning in April has displaced at least 10,000 Somalis and forced relief agencies to suspend most activities. Conflict in the northeastern regions of Bari and Nugal has periodically forced aid personnel to evacuate, and there have been several killings and kidnappings of relief workers in and near Mogadishu. Other factors that have negatively impacted the humanitarian situation in Somalia include the continued ban on Somali livestock imports imposed by Saudi Arabia, the devaluation of the Somali Shilling, and the decision of the U.S. Government (USG) to freeze the assets of the largest cash facilitator in Somalia used to transfer remittances from overseas. These developments have eroded the livelihoods and purchasing power of affected populations.

Situation in critical regions

Gedo Region. Intense conflict in April and May has adversely affected the humanitarian situation in northern

Gedo region, which already suffered from some of the worst drought conditions in Somalia. Gedo has experienced three consecutive years of failed rains, including poor rains in November-December 2001 that produced a secondary harvest (January-February) in 2002 that was 80% below normal levels. Field assessments by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and partner agencies in January and February found extremely high malnutrition levels in the northern districts of Gedo and, to a lesser extent, in adjacent areas of Bay and Bakool regions. Southern districts in Gedo region were not as severely affected. International relief agencies increased their assistance activities in February and March to manage the crisis by expanding health, nutrition, and water programs and food aid distributions.

Clan-related conflict beginning in early April 2002 forced an estimated 10,000 Somalis to flee to Kenya and an undetermined number to flee into Ethiopia, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). To date, approximately 5,000 refugees have returned to Gedo region, leaving approximately 5,000 in Kenya. On June 14, the Government of Kenya authorized UNHCR to relocate the Somali refugees in Mandera to the existing Dadaab refugee camp in northwest Kenya. UNHCR announced that it plans to

begin relocation of the refugees on June 20. An additional 3,000–5,000 Somalis fled from Gedo region to Ethiopia. No complete assessment of the refugees in Ethiopia has been made to date.

The insecurity in Gedo region has forced the reduction or suspension of relief efforts in the area. CARE has postponed its monthly food aid delivery indefinitely. Action Contre la Faim/France (ACF/F) has suspended its water program and reduced its nutrition program to essential activities through local staff.

Northern regions. The northern regions of Sool, Sanaag, and Bari are also facing emergency conditions, although the overall situation is not as alarming as in Gedo. Several years of drought have gradually depleted the water resources available for human and animal consumption in the plateau areas of Sool, Sanaag, and Bari. Very poor *Deyr* rains left many water sources dry in December 2001, according to surveys by the Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU), a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) program that monitors the humanitarian situation in Somalia. The primary rains season began in late March and have begun to improve water availability and livestock conditions, however overall water availability remains poor.

A new outbreak of fighting in early May has worsened the outlook for the northeast. Tensions between Jama Ali Jama, the elected leader of the regional administration of Puntland, and Abdullahi Yusuf, his predecessor, have escalated since September 2001. Following a bout of fighting in early May, Yusuf regained control of the area, including the port city of Bossasso. While the conflict has abated, the security situation remains uncertain and access to certain areas is sporadic.

Saudi Arabia continues to enforce a ban on the import of Somali livestock. The ban has eliminated a main source of income and has resulted in larger herds consuming limited rangeland resources. Livestock exports to the United Arab Emirates and Yemen have resumed, however regional livestock trade will remain below normal levels until Saudi Arabia, which normally purchases 95% of Somali livestock exports, lifts its ban.

Situation by sector

Food Security. Food security conditions are tenuous but stable in most areas of Somalia, except for the areas of Gedo and the northeast detailed above. The secondary rains of October–November 2001 produced above-average harvests in most areas. Local conditions vary, however, and pockets of Bay, Bakool, and the Shabelle regions had poor harvests. The primary rains began in March 2002 and have been adequate in most areas of Somalia. The May FSAU Food Security Report describes improved pasture and livestock conditions in the northwest, the northeast, and in parts of southern Somalia. Early crop planting indicate that Bay region will receive good harvests, although the condition of crops in Bakool and Hiraan is less certain.

The closure of the primary remittance bank has also weakened the food security situation in Somalia. On November 7, 2001, the USG-imposed financial sanctions against the Al-Barakaat bank, the largest source of remittance flows into Somalia. Each year Somalia receives approximately \$500 million in remittances that reach half of the country's population, according to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP). Al-Barakaat conducted half of the remittance transfers to southern Somalia, providing an important source of alternative income for households affected by conflict and drought. The decrease in remittance flows has limited employment opportunities and the availability of cash for poor urban groups, according to FSAU, although the full impact of the bank closure is not yet known.

Health and Nutrition. Adequate rains in November and December stabilized the nutrition situation in Bay, Bakool, and Hiraan regions by improving access to food and water. Though conditions are stable, they remain tenuous, and recent nutrition surveys have identified pockets of high malnutrition across the country. The onset of good rains throughout Somalia in late March and April may improve the nutrition situation, however several seasons of good rainfall will be necessary for recovery to continue.

The health situation in Somalia is also poor but stable. A cholera outbreak in April adversely affected 1,191 people in southern and northeastern areas, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Cholera outbreaks often occur in Somalia at this time of year, and WHO, UNICEF, ACF/F, and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) have brought the outbreak under control. Informal assessments by FSAU in northeastern districts reported that measles, acute respiratory infection, and diarrhea are contributing to malnutrition among children.

Security. The security situation in Somalia remains fluid. Periodic conflict in Gedo region and the northeast have adversely affected humanitarian access, while threats to humanitarian workers have continued in other areas. In February, an expatriate relief worker was killed in Merka, near Mogadishu, reportedly as the result of a personnel conflict. A local relief worker in Mogadishu was kidnapped and held for several days in March. A senior UNDP staff member was kidnapped in Mogadishu from April 28 until May 25. The United Nations (U.N.) and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) temporarily suspended all operations in Mogadishu to protest the kidnapping.

In addition to the intense fighting and large-scale displacement in Gedo region, skirmishes throughout the country continue to interrupt relief activities and cause small-scale displacement. A January 2002 U.N. security assessment confirmed the risk to its operations and recommended that the U.N. maintain its existing security measures. However, pockets of Somalia do remain calm, particularly in the northwest. UNICEF is reopening its

offices in Bossasso and Berbera, and is establishing a new office in Kismayo.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Based on the ongoing conflict and continuing drought in Somalia, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Johnnie Carson re-declared a disaster for the complex emergency in Somalia on December 7, 2001, and re-declared a disaster for the drought on December 21, 2001. The USG has provided \$23,933,497 in emergency humanitarian assistance for Somalia to date in FY 2002. Of this total, USAID/OFDA funding has totaled \$3,848,623.

USAID/OFDA has provided \$998,811 to International Medical Corps (IMC) for emergency primary health care and specialized feeding to more than one million beneficiaries in Bay, Bakool, and Hiraan regions. The program includes vaccinations and immunizations, nutritional monitoring, maternal and child health programs, and emergency curative services. USAID/OFDA has provided \$1,500,000 to UNICEF's U.N. Common Air Services (UNCAS) to enable partner organizations to transport staff and supplies into Somalia. USAID/OFDA has granted \$347,696 to Action Contre le Faim/France (ACF/F) to continue its water and sanitation program in Gedo region, repairing water sources for an estimated 22,100 residents and conducting education on human hygiene. A \$1,002,116 grant to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) will support its water/sanitation program in Hiraan and Bakool regions, benefiting approximately 53,100 people with improved water sources and community sanitation education. USAID/OFDA plans to provide additional funding in FY 2002 to respond to the humanitarian situation in Somalia.

In addition, a number of programs initiated by USAID/OFDA in FY 2001 continue to operate in Somalia. These include a nutritional surveillance system; health and nutrition programs in southern, central, and northeastern regions; animal health programs in the northeast; water/sanitation programs in northeast and southern regions; and port improvement activities in Bossasso and Berbera. Detailed information on these ongoing programs is available in USAID/OFDA's November 14, 2001 Somalia Complex Emergency/Drought Situation Report.

During FY 2002, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided more than \$16.8 million to date. USAID/FFP has provided 7,800 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at \$3,704,900, to the World Food Program's Protracted Relief and Rehabilitation Operation to assist 700,000 people made vulnerable by the drought. USAID/FFP also provided 17,910 MT of P.L. 490 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at more than \$13 million, to CARE's emergency food program. This program supplies general and supplementary feeding in the most severely affected areas of Gedo, and Food for Work in the regions of Bay, Bakool, and Hiraan. The State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$3,218,974 for programs in Somalia, in addition to \$20,510,000 for Africa regional programs.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2002				
USAID				\$20,714,523
USAID/OFDA				\$3,848,623
	ACF/F	Water/sanitation	Gedo	\$347,696
	ADRA	Water/sanitation	Hiraan, Bakool	\$1,002,116
	International Medical Corps	Health/Nutrition	Bay, Bakool, Hiraan	\$998,811
	UNICEF – UNCAS	Air transport	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
USAID/FFP.....				\$16,865,900
	WFP	5,700 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities	Countrywide	\$3,704,900
	CARE	17,910 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities	Countrywide	\$13,161,000
STATE/PRM				\$3,218,974
	UNHCR	Refugee return assistance	Countrywide	\$1,590,000
	International Rescue Committee	Health, Income-generation, Agriculture for refugee returns	Countrywide	\$976,534
	Save the Children	Education and Children's rights for refugee returns	Countrywide	\$652,440
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia to date in FY 2002				\$23,933,497



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*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html

